

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation
Water Resources Division
Water Rights Bureau

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
For Routine Actions with Limited Environmental Impact

Part I. Proposed Action Description

1. Applicant/Contact name and address:

Sunrise Terrace No. 1 HOA
PO Box 1556
Kalispell, MT 59903

2. Type of action: Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit 76LJ 30066212

3. Water source name: Groundwater

4. Location affected by project: The place of use is generally located in Sunrise Terrace Subdivision #1, NESW, Section 2, Township 28N, Range 21 W, Flathead County, Montana

5. Narrative summary of the proposed project, purpose, action to be taken, and benefits:

The Applicant is proposing to add a point of diversion (Well #1, GWIC 81927) and is requesting 60 GPM to provide additional flow to the Sunrise Terrace Subdivision #1. No additional volume is requested because supplemental water right 76LJ 27674-00 provides adequate volume for 29 single family residences that are occupied year round and 10.1 acres of lawn and garden. The Applicant proposes to divert groundwater from January 1st thru December 31st. Certificate 76LJ 27674-00 will be corrected after issuance of this permit. The volume will be corrected down to 29.3 AF to reflect actual water use of the subdivision proved up in this Permit. The DNRC shall issue a water use permit if an applicant proves the criteria in 85-2-311 MCA are met.

6. Agencies consulted during preparation of the Environmental Assessment: (include agencies with overlapping jurisdiction)

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Montana Natural Heritage Program: Endangered, Threatened Species and Species of Special Concern, Wetland Mapper program
- Montana Department of Fish Wildlife & Parks (MFWP)
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ) Clean Water Act Information and PWS Drinking Water Watch databases
- U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); web soil survey
- Montana Historical Society

Part II. Environmental Review

1. Environmental Impact Checklist:

<h4>PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</h4>

WATER QUANTITY, QUALITY AND DISTRIBUTION

Water quantity - *Assess whether the source of supply is identified as a chronically or periodically dewatered stream by DFWP. Assess whether the proposed use will worsen the already dewatered condition.*

Flathead River is not listed by DFWP as chronically or periodically dewatered. Upon analysis by the Department the source aquifer and Flathead River were found to have water in excess of that requested by the Applicant.

Determination: No impact.

Water quality - *Assess whether the stream is listed as water quality impaired or threatened by DEQ, and whether the proposed project will affect water quality.*

According to the MDEQ's Clean Water Act Information Center in 2012 Flathead River was categorized as having insufficient data to assess any use. This application is for additional flow, but no additional volume. Volume for the subdivision is already covered under Certificate 76LJ 27674-00. Combined this appropriation and 76LJ 27674-00 will likely reduce discharge from the Deep Aquifer to Flathead River in an amount equal to their consumptive use or approximately 14.7 AF. However, this application is for no additional volume beyond that already provided by Certificate 76LJ 27674-00. No depletions to surface water beyond that already allowed under 76LJ 27674-00 will occur. The Department found that the proposed use will not affect water quality.

Determination: No significant impact.

Groundwater - *Assess if the proposed project impacts ground water quality or supply. If this is a groundwater appropriation, assess if it could impact adjacent surface water flows.*

This application is for no additional volume beyond that already provided by Certificate 76LJ 27674-00. No depletions to surface water beyond that already allowed under 76LJ 27674-00 will occur. Groundwater quality will not be significantly impacted.

Determination: No significant impact.

DIVERSION WORKS - *Assess whether the means of diversion, construction and operation of the appropriation works of the proposed project will impact any of the following: channel impacts, flow modifications, barriers, riparian areas, dams, well construction.*

The proposed appropriation will utilize Well #1(GWIC 81927) to provide additional flow (60 GPM) to the subdivision. Certificate 76LJ 27674-00 legally provides enough volume and 55 GPM. The supply system consists of two wells, nine Amtrol-X-Trol WX 302 pressure tanks and associated 6-inch and 4 inch diameter PVC distribution piping. Each well was drilled by a licensed well driller (license # WWC-101 & #WWC-8) in accordance with MCA Title 37, Chapter 43 and ARM Title 36, Chapter 21. Well #1 is 178 feet deep and has a static water level of 68 feet. The well casing is 7 inches in diameter 0 – 178 feet with perforations from 168-176 feet. Well #2 is 200 feet deep and has a static water level of 65 feet. The well casing is 6 inches in diameter from 0 - 202 feet with perforated casing from 98-100 feet. Well #1 contains a Goulds Model 55GS50 pump with a 5-hp motor; it capable of pumping 60 GPM. Well #2 contains a CP4JO2 pump with a 5-hp motor; it is capable of pumping 55 GPM. The wells are operated in a lead-lag manner and are controlled by the pressure in the water system. Well #1 is the primary well; the pump turns on when pressure within the system drops below 42 psi and will continue pumping until 60 psi is reached. If the draw is too large for Well #1, the pump in Well #2 will turn on and the two wells will pump simultaneously until 58 psi is reached in the system. There are no flow meters or measurement devices within the system. All wastewater is discharged to individual drain fields. The proposed project shall not impact any channels, barriers, riparian areas and dams. Modeling done by Department groundwater hydrologists show that no significant negative impact will occur to existing water users and surface/groundwater resources.

Determination: No significant impact.

UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

Endangered and threatened species - Assess whether the proposed project will impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any “species of special concern,” or create a barrier to the migration or movement of fish or wildlife. For groundwater, assess whether the proposed project, including impacts on adjacent surface flows, would impact any threatened or endangered species or “species of special concern.”

The Montana Natural Heritage Program and MFWP websites were reviewed to determine if there are any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants or aquatic species or any “species of special concern” in Township 28N, Range 21W that could be impacted by the proposed project.

According to MFWP there is one plant species of concern, the Pygmy Water-lily (*Nymphaea leibergii*). This area has been disturbed for over 30 years, impact to the sensitive plant species has most likely already occurred.

The Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) is listed as threatened by the USFS. The Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*), Fisher (*Martes pennanti*) and Westslope Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkia lewisi*) are listed as sensitive species by the USFS. The Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) and Veery (*Catharus fuscescens*) are listed S3 to S3B by MFWP meaning their populations are at risk because their numbers are very limited. The Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) are listed S2 by MFWP, meaning their populations are at risk because their numbers are extremely limited and/or rapidly declining. An adequate quantity of water will still exist in the Flathead River to maintain existing populations of both threatened and sensitive species of fish. The volume of water withdrawn will not be greater than historic diverted volumes; any impacts to sensitive mammal

species or fish most likely have already occurred. The proposed project will not impact any threatened or endangered fish, wildlife, plants and aquatic species or any species of special concern.

Determination: No significant impact.

Wetlands - *Consult and assess whether the apparent wetland is a functional wetland (according to COE definitions), and whether the wetland resource would be impacted.*

Determination: N/A, project does not involve wetlands or critical riparian habitats

Ponds - *For ponds, consult and assess whether existing wildlife, waterfowl, or fisheries resources would be impacted.*

Determination: N/A, project does not involve ponds.

GEOLOGY/SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE - *Assess whether there will be degradation of soil quality, alteration of soil stability, or moisture content. Assess whether the soils are heavy in salts that could cause saline seep.*

According to soil survey data provided by the NRCS within the place of use soils are mostly Kalispell loam. This soil is well drained and not susceptible to saline seep. The use of water for multiple domestic purposes and lawn and garden will not cause degradation of soil quality and stability.

Determination: No impact.

VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY/NOXIOUS WEEDS - *Assess impacts to existing vegetative cover. Assess whether the proposed project would result in the establishment or spread of noxious weeds.*

Any impacts to existing vegetation will be within the range of current disturbances due to current development within the subdivision, therefore noxious weeds are not expected to be established or spread.

Determination: No impact.

AIR QUALITY - *Assess whether there will be a deterioration of air quality or adverse effects on vegetation due to increased air pollutants.*

Adverse air quality impacts from increased air pollutants are not expected as a result of this project. No air pollutants were identified as resulting from the applicants proposed use.

Determination: No impact.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES - *Assess whether there will be degradation of unique archeological or historical sites in the vicinity of the proposed project if it is on State or Federal*

Lands. If it is not on State or Federal Lands simply state NA-project not located on State or Federal Lands.

Determination: N/A, project is not located on state or federal land.

DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AND ENERGY - *Assess any other impacts on environmental resources of land, water and energy not already addressed.*

All impacts to land, water and energy have been identified and no further impacts are anticipated.

Determination: No impact.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS - *Assess whether the proposed project is inconsistent with any locally adopted environmental plans and goals.*

The project is located in an area with no locally adopted environmental plans.

Determination: No impact.

ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES - *Assess whether the proposed project will impact access to or the quality of recreational and wilderness activities.*

The proposed project will not inhibit, alter or impair access to present recreational opportunities in the area. The project is not expected to create any significant pollution, noise, or traffic congestion in the area that may alter the quality of recreational opportunities. The proposed place of use and diversion do not exist on land designated as wilderness.

Determination: No impact.

HUMAN HEALTH - *Assess whether the proposed project impacts on human health.*

There should be no significant negative impact on human health from this proposed use.

Determination: No impact.

PRIVATE PROPERTY - *Assess whether there are any government regulatory impacts on private property rights.*

Yes ___ No x ___ *If yes, analyze any alternatives considered that could reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.*

Determination: No impact.

OTHER HUMAN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES - For routine actions of limited environmental impact, the following may be addressed in a checklist fashion.

Impacts on:

- (a) Cultural uniqueness and diversity? None identified.
- (b) Local and state tax base and tax revenues? None identified.
- (c) Existing land uses? None identified.
- (d) Quantity and distribution of employment? None identified.
- (e) Distribution and density of population and housing? None identified.
- (f) Demands for government services? None identified.
- (g) Industrial and commercial activity? None identified.
- (h) Utilities? None identified.
- (i) Transportation? None identified.
- (j) Safety? None identified.
- (k) Other appropriate social and economic circumstances? None identified.

2. *Secondary and cumulative impacts on the physical environment and human population:*

Secondary Impacts: None identified.

Cumulative Impacts: None identified.

3. *Describe any mitigation/stipulation measures:* None identified.

4. *Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, including the no action alternative, if an alternative is reasonably available and prudent to consider:* No reasonable alternatives were identified in the EA.

PART III. Conclusion

1. *Preferred Alternativ:* None identified.

2. *Comments and Responses:* None.

3. *Finding:*

Yes___ No x___ Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required?

If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

An EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action because no significant impacts were identified.

Name of person(s) responsible for preparation of EA:

Name: Melissa Brickl

Title: Hydrologist/Water Resource Specialist

Date: October 28, 2013